

GRAD

HF

330

• P5

P56

1924-1926 incompl

Philippine

Progress

C 517,705



Philippine Progress



Published in New York by the United States Mission—
American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippine Islands

H. L. HEATH, *Chairman*
President A. C. C. of the P. I.

J. W. HAUSSELMANN
V. President A. C. C. of the P. I.

NORBERT LYONS
Secretary

C. M. COTTERMAN
Ex-President A. C. C. of the P. I.

No. 1 Publication Office: 20 WEST 34TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY, N. Y. TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1924

Rubber Raised in Philippines Would Free Us From Foreign Monopoly

Through development of the crude rubber industry in the Philippine Islands, it would be possible for the United States to gain freedom from the present foreign monopoly of this essential commodity. Between \$100,000,000 and \$150,000,000, it is estimated, was paid in 1923 by the American people in excess prices imposed by the British government's artificial restriction of rubber exports.

The United States consumes about 70 per cent of the world's supply of crude rubber. The British rubber lands in the Federated Malay States and the Dutch rubber lands in Sumatra control 95 per cent of the crude rubber output of the entire Far East whence comes the bulk of the world's rubber. So these markets have the United States at their mercy.

Every citizen of the United States is affected by the price of crude rubber. America's consumption of rubber, particularly in the automobile field, is increasing rapidly. Claudius H. Huston, former Assistant Secretary of Commerce, estimates that if the present rate of automotive development continues, an output of 800,000 tons of crude rubber will be required in 1940 to meet the world demand. This is about double the present output. As it takes from six to eight years for a rubber tree to yield sap in commercial quantities, it is evident that a rapid expansion of the world's rubber area is necessary.

The Philippine Islands offer a natural field for the desired expansion. Our government experts sent by congressional authority to the Philippine Islands reported that the Island of Min-

danao alone contains vast stretches of soil as good or better for rubber growing purposes than the lands now controlled by the British and Dutch. In fact, a large area of the public domain in the Philippines could be used to meet all our crude rubber requirements for generations. Thus, the United States would be independent of foreign domination of this important raw material.

The eyes of American business men and officials were opened to the menace of foreign control when, two years ago, the British government put into effect a restriction act on crude rubber exports from the Far East colonies.

The Philippine lands susceptible of rubber cultivation now lie idle and undeveloped. American interests cannot develop them because of a Philippine

Far East Market for American Farmers

The Philippine Islands now use every year the output of 200,000 acres of American wheat, 86,000 acres of American cotton and 8,850 acres of American apples. Twelve thousand five hundred American cows furnish part of the annual dairy products demand of the archipelago. These figures should prove of special interest to the American farmer.

law restricting holdings by corporations to 2,500 acres, an area wholly inadequate for the culture of rubber on a commercial scale. Because of lack of capital and inexperience, the Filipinos find it impossible to develop the rubber industry in the Islands. The initiative must come from American sources.

Liberties of Filipino Now Equal Those of an American Citizen

When Congress convenes in December, it will probably be asked to act on the Fairfield Bill. Enactment of this measure is proposed in order to "enable the people of the Philippine Islands to adopt a constitution and form a government for the Philippine Islands and to provide for the future political status of the same."

Reference to the Bill is made in a recent article in the "New York Herald-Tribune" by Norbert Lyons. He writes:

"The delegation of Americans from Manila now in the United States is prepared to answer any questions pertaining to the Philippines from an economic or business standpoint. Its members

have resided in the territory for a quarter of a century and have taken part in the battles through which the American flag was planted there and title to the territory passed into Uncle Sam's hands."

Describing the present status of the Filipino, Mr. Lyons writes:

"No citizen of the United States enjoys greater personal or political liberty than the average Filipino. There are no restrictions or impediments to his intellectual, social or material advancement. His children enjoy the advantage of an excellent educational system. Practically every government post

(Continued on column 1, page 2)

Liberties of Filipino

(Continued from page 1)

except those of Governor General and Vice-Governor is held by a Filipino. The provinces and municipalities are entirely governed by Filipinos. There is a wholly Filipino legislature. Except for the veto power and supervisory rights exercised by the Governor General, the territory is to all intents and purposes an autonomous, self-governing political entity. Many Filipinos consider themselves lucky in having the benefits of the American supervisory functions, since their own politicians and political leaders are in too many instances actuated by overstrong partisan or personal motives.

"General Wood, upon noting the disastrous effects of the Harrison policy, especially as exemplified by the demoralization of the government personnel and the dissipation of the public funds through the national bank, while he inspected the islands as a member of the Wood-Forbes mission, decided to reverse the Harrison policy and to carry on the Philippine government in strict accordance with the letter and spirit of the Jones law. This aroused the resentment of Manuel Quezon, who until then had been the virtual czar of the Philippines. He engineered the Cabinet resignation of July, 1923, and forced through a general policy of hostility toward Wood, as a result of which the Philippine Legislature at its recent session disregarded the Governor General's suggestions for reform and rehabilitation measures.

"Nevertheless, Governor Wood continued on his original course of reform and rehabilitation, and, with the aid of a group of loyal and efficient Americans and a few level-headed Filipinos, has succeeded in straightening out the government finances and bringing back the governmental machinery to an economic and vastly more efficient basis. President Coolidge rightly supported General Wood, as should every right-thinking, red-blooded American."

▽

Manila is so situated geographically as to become the big trading center of the Far East. A population of 126,000, 000 dwells within a radius of 1,700 miles.

▽

The Philippine Islands, of which there are 7,083 in the archipelago, have a population of 12,000,000, all Filipinos or so-called non-Christian tribes with the exception of 45,000 Chinese, 8,000 Japanese, 6,000 Americans, 4,000 Spaniards and about 3,000 representatives of other nationalities.

Philippines a Prey to Japan If U. S. Protection is Withdrawn

In a summary of observations made during his recent tour of the Far East, prepared for "The Atlantic Monthly," William Howard Gardiner, after describing the strategic position which Japan now holds through possession of nearly all the islands of the Pacific north of the Equator, says:

"A glance at the map should suffice to show that the retention of the Philippines by the United States is the present outstanding obstacle to the Japanese extending progressively their control along the insular barrier. But if Filipino politicians were free merely to grant to the Japanese a certain naval-base site in the Southern Philippines—as there is reason to believe some would be glad to do—then the remainder of the task ahead of the Japanese would be easy in comparison to its present difficulties.

A Strategic Base

"And this for the simple yet all important reason that the United States, should we so desire, could focus adequate force to stop the Japanese at the Philippines; whereas the British, for politico-naval reasons that are too complex to outline here, could not focus adequate force at Singapore to stop the Japanese there if the latter were based on the Philippines and had a secure line of support to such a base.

"The conclusion from this situation is that, in deciding on the future of the Philippines, we are likely to be deciding on the future of the Netherlands East Indies and of Australasia—to say nothing of the future of India, of Malaya, of China, and of all for which our civilization may stand in the Orient.

Mounting Guard

"In short, the American, the British and the Dutch circles concerned with matters of international grand strategy in the Far East recognize explicitly that the guard the United States mounts at the Philippines is essential to the security of Australasia and to whatever measure of peace may be maintained 'east of Suez.'

"On the other hand, it is recognized in such circles as beyond question that, if the Japanese could secure merely an appropriate naval-base site in an 'Independent Republic of the Philippines' they would be able to isolate Eastern Asia from commercial or political or military relations with or support from either Europe or America.

"Consequently, the Japanese could set aside that vast region as their own economic preserve, without the trouble of having to police it, in accordance with only a partial development of the more extensive Maritime Plan that the naval Satzuma clan are known to be urging; and by so doing they would reap the bulk of the benefits while avoiding all the turmoil and costs necessarily incident to the Territorialist Plan of the army Chosu clan for the progressive conquest of Eastern Asia.

Indirect Action

"From this it should be obvious why, on the one hand, the Japanese are not pushing forward into continental Asia as extensively as they might while, on the other hand, they are doing everything in their power, indirectly, to bring about Philippine independence.

"The principal purpose of giving here this outline of Far Eastern matters has been to bring out the way in which the persistent practices and apparent purposes of the Japanese Empire are diametrically opposed to the comparatively new world policy for which the United States stands; namely, equality of opportunity for all without sequestration.

"Equality of opportunity without sequestration is, and must remain, irreconcilable with sequestration designed to gain preferential or exclusive opportunity. This irreconcilability between the policy of the United States and the practices of the Japanese Empire would be sufficient cause in itself for the known attitude of distrust and antagonism that Japanese authorities maintain toward the United States under a surface of official amenities.

A Surplus Market

"On our side, we are becoming more and more dependent on selling overseas our surplus products in order to maintain and advance our standard of living. And since 1900 our transpacific trade has increased over a hundredfold; so that now it is nearly a quarter of our total overseas trade, although, as yet, we have little more than sampled the transpacific market.

"It would be interesting to speculate as to how much less war-ridden the past would have been had our comparatively recent Open Door Doctrine of equality of opportunity for all without sequestration been propounded and put into general practice centuries ago by others."

